

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's OTHER Newspaper

Play schemes take to water to save Hackney

BATTLE UP THE RIVER

Over two hundred children set the campaign to save Hackney off to a flying start last month. The children, all from Hackney playgroups threatened with cuts, sailed to Westminster on October 27 to draw attention to their plight.

The children gathered at Hackney town hall, then with a send off by the Mayor, they embarked at Tower Pier to sail up the Thames by decorated motor launch to Westminster. As they reached Westminster Bridge, a thirty foot banner declaring 'Save Hackney's play' suddenly appeared over the parapet.

Wearing bright yellow tabards bearing messages such as "Save our group" and carrying balloons, the children marched down to the Houses of Parliament -

HELIUM

much to the consternation of the police, since this was in direct contravention of regulations. The police, in fact, reacted with undue severity, since the procession hardly presented any dire threat to our nation's security.

Although the official guides laid on for the occasion had mysteriously disappeared, the party was not disappointed, since the two MPs for Hackney - Brian Sedgemore and Ernie Roberts - took it round the

most interesting parts.

The morning finished off with the children releasing their helium balloons from Westminster Bridge. The balloons, bearing the message 'Save our play schemes, save Hackney' were intended for the Secretary of State for the Environment.

FUNDING

The children came from five play organisations which by next spring will no longer be able to run any more holiday playschemes. Two of the five, the Homerton Adventure Playground and the Huddleston Centre for Handicapped Children, both running full time play facilities catering for hundreds of children, have no guarantee of funding after next March and may be forced to close.

These five organisations are among many providing play facilities in Hackney under the DoE's Partnership scheme. Now the DoE says that the Council must take over funding; if the Council is further penalised by the Government, it will not have the money to do so. The Save Hackney campaign, which organised the children's outing, is one project set up to campaign against the Government's cuts. Sue Bradley has now been appointed as the project's co-ordinator and can be

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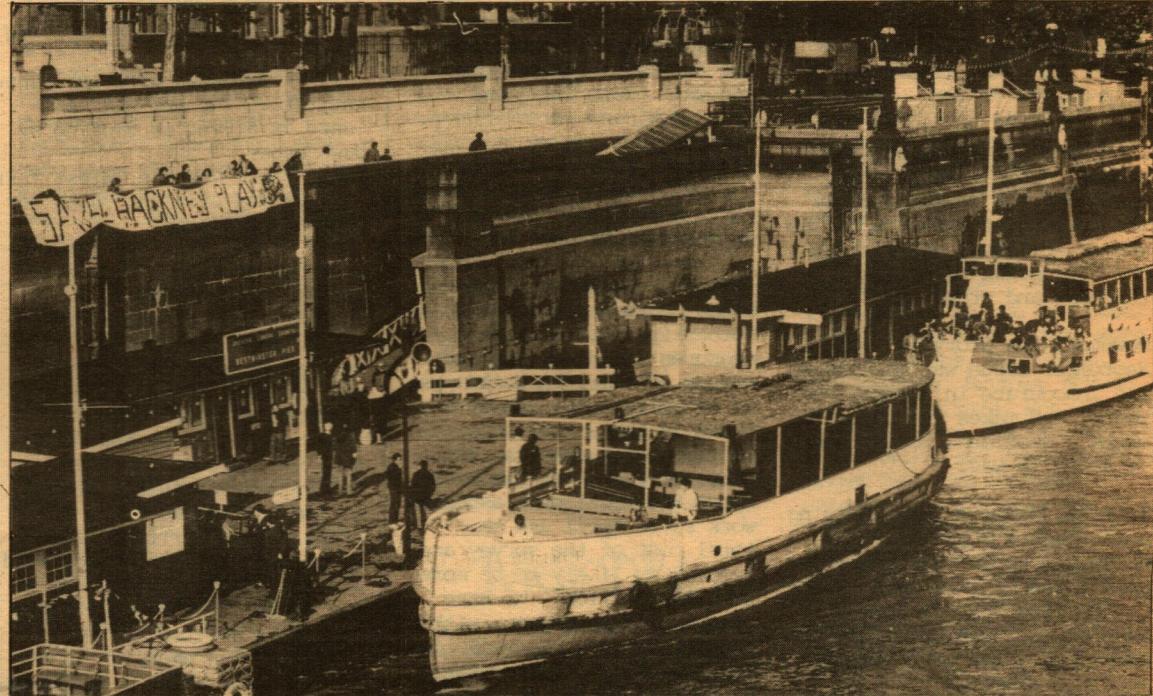


Photo: Steve Gear

QUEENSLAND PLEATERS DISPUTE

We asked for better conditions... and got the sack!

Six pleaters have been picketing the Queensland Pleaters garment factory in Elsdale Street, central Hackney, since they were sacked on October 5 for trying to negotiate for better working conditions.

The strikers are members of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers (NUTGW). Steward Rustem Sharif explained: "We haven't had a pay increase for three years. Every time we try to negotiate they say no. We came out in protest about two months ago; then they talked. Three weeks of negotiations came to nothing. Last month we came out again, and got the sack."

Rustem continued: "The conditions are terrible. The toilets are old and stink; they're never cleaned. The windows don't open and the fumes can get bad. The fire escape is shut and mice run all around us while we're working."

Scabs sent

The pleaters are paid piece rates, which have actually fallen in the last year or so. On average a skilled pleater takes home £80 for a 40 hour work week. The

pleaters do not get paid for the time they spend preparing the garments or for time when there is no work. Holiday pay is another grievance.

Two pleaters have not joined the strike and Queensland director Nick Ahmed recruited inexperienced school leavers through the Hackney Job Centre. The strike-breakers are paid £60 a week. The Trades Council has contacted civil service union workers at the Job Centre and no more applicants have been sent to Queensland.

Pickets have turned away some of the scabs and halted deliveries from Queensland's suppliers.

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Union support

Rustum Sharif added: "We've got lots of support from our union and the labour movement in Hackney. They have set up a fund for us so there's plenty of money coming in." NUPE council workers, DHSS workers and Hackney teachers have all joined early morning pickets at the factory, which is near the Frampton Park estate. Rustem said: "We're asking Ahmed to come around

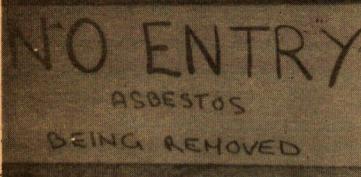
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Photo: Paul Mattsson



Asbestos: how ILEA acted

Dear HPP,

I sympathise very much with Hackney schools about the inconvenience caused them by the removal of asbestos in the summer holidays, and I regret the disruption to parents, teachers and other staff.

However, the story in your September issue was misleading and inaccurate in several respects, and makes the situation sound a good deal worse than it actually was.

In fact, despite ILEA carrying out asbestos work in 27 Hackney schools this summer, only three of them were closed on the first day of term because work was not finished, and no children were 'bussed' to other schools.

Your mention of 'lumps of asbestos' being found at William Patten seems to refer to incidents which in fact took place at Easter, not in the summer, and since then procedures have been changed and tightened up considerably. The William Patten hut which was removed in the summer holidays had been replaced by another by the beginning of term, and the mess had been cleared up by then.

Almost one hundred jobs to remove asbestos in ILEA buildings were successfully carried out over the summer holidays. Because we wanted to progress as much work as possible, we used all the specialist firms which are capable of doing this work, including Cape

letters

Contracts. We are making great efforts to increase the number of firms who we can call on to carry out this work, and we are considering setting up an asbestos removal unit in our own direct labour force, after consultations with the unions involved.

ILEA has done more about asbestos than any other authority. Our stringent measures include a planned survey of all ILEA buildings to establish what asbestos there is and a rolling programme for removing it wherever possible. We have spent £1½ million on asbestos work since April and the total cost of the survey and removal is likely to be more than £50 million. We have spearheaded a campaign with support from the Council of Local Education Authorities to demand central government funds for asbestos removal. We have recently met with members of the Hackney Health and Safety Committee and explained our policies to them. All ILEA staff have received a leaflet about the problem and we are preparing another leaflet for parents.

Your article suggests the ILEA has been complacent and less than direct with its staff and parents; I hope you will accept that the measures already taken are evidence of our will to tackle the removal of asbestos from our schools as quickly as possible.

Yours faithfully,
Ruth Gee,
Hackney Borough Council
representative on ILEA
and Deputy Leader of ILEA

Reading and Writing

Dear HPP

We were pleased to see in the October issue a positive review of the latest books from the Hackney Reading Centre.

However, we are concerned that there were factual errors and that the review showed a lack of understanding of our purposes in publishing writing by students.

1. Four books were published, not three. The one not mentioned is *Giving up Smoking* by Dawn Brown.

2. These are the latest four in a series of eight books for beginner readers.

3. We did not 'get the students to write the text themselves.' In our literacy teaching we feel that writing is at least as important as reading because it is part of the process of enabling students to take control of their learning. We hope that they will become producers rather than consumers of the written word. So a great deal of writing is done by all students and circulated and read by other students in the centre. These books began as pieces written during classes. The decision to publish came after many pieces were read and commented on by students and tutors in the Reading Centre. These four were the most popular.

4. Finally the concept of 'life and social skills' is not a useful one in relation to adults. People come to the Reading Centre to improve their reading and writing, not to learn how to live their lives.

We realise that you couldn't know how we work, but as much of our practice is to do with challenging assumptions that adult literacy students are inadequate and disadvantaged people, we are concerned that these assumptions are not perpetuated in a paper like Hackney People's Press.

Irene Schwab
Jud Stone
Hackney Reading Centre.



Photo: Caro Webb

Barriers come down

Halloween was celebrated this year with a difference at Greenham Common. More than 1,000 women - including over sixty from Hackney - took to the woods round the air base, to 'picnic' in witches' gear. But at dusk the real action began, when women cut down at least a mile of the base's perimeter fencing.

The women acted in small autonomous groups, breaking into pairs with one climbing up piggyback on the other to reach up and cut the top strands of wire. Others in the groups provided back-up support.

'We were amazed,' said one Hackney woman, 'at the way the police were taken by surprise. They didn't seem to know what to expect. In some places women had about a quarter of an hour undisturbed before anyone came along: there were just not enough police. We thought the word must have been passed on - so many women have been buying bolt cutters that shop keepers were commenting on it.'

What had surprised the women in their turn was the amount of courage and resolution it took to cut the fence. Trained as we are not to take violent action or destroy the property of others, even this non-violent action took real determination, particularly when face to face with soldiers on the other side of the fence.

Not all of the soldiers were hostile though - some actually passed the cutters back to the women and helped them to roll down the wire. As opposed to those who grabbed women outside the wire (despite the MoD denial in the papers) and held them inside the wire until they could be taken

over by the police.

Generally the police were however not unfriendly; perhaps the fact that they were so heavily outnumbered had something to do with this. Their aim appeared to control the women by removing their cutters rather than to make arrests. The exceptions were women known to live at Greenham, whom the police were picking out. Few women were injured and as far as could be observed, no Hackney women had been arrested, though far more than the papers reported had been - probably in the region of 300.

The peace women's policy of non-cooperation with the police, but at the same time not being unfriendly, is getting results: individual policemen were willing to talk and express sympathy with the 'no missile' goal.

Once again, the organisation of the whole event - done entirely by word of mouth with no one overall coordinator, but with all women working together - shows how much can be achieved with trust and unity of purpose.

The event also showed how fragile is the so-called security of the American base. If non-violent, unarmed women could so easily demolish the fence, how safe really are these dangerous weapons?

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Women's Centre focal point

Dear HPP

Whilst fully supporting the sentiments expressed in your article in the October issue on the scandalous sacking of Amarjit Kochhar from the Downs Road Methodist Church Women's Centre we wish to point out one inaccuracy that appeared in the final paragraph.

This referred to the existence of a 'proper' Womens Centre in Dalston Lane. As a group of women who have been meeting and campaigning for over two years to set up such a Centre, we regret to inform readers that no 'proper' Womens Centre yet exists in Dalston Lane, or indeed at any other location in Hackney. The good news is, however, that this situation is soon to be remedied!

Hackney Council has offered us the lease of the former doctor's surgery at 20 Dalston Lane. This property is in a very bad state of repair but the Council has agreed to pay for half the cost of the repair work. On 18 October, the GLC Women's Committee approved the funding of the other half as well as the cost of running a Women's Centre for a year. This will enable a Womens Centre on a smaller scale to that envisaged at Dalston Lane to operate temporarily at 27 Hackney Grove until the repair work is completed. We will share 27 Hackney Grove during this period with Hackney Girls Project.

It is hoped that the Womens Centre at 27 Hackney Grove, and in the future at 20 Dalston Lane, will provide an

important focal point for all advice, training and social activities that women are organising in the borough as well as, with its cafe and creche, a much-needed drop-in place. The Centre will also run classes and advice sessions and provide a meeting space for established women's groups.

Now that at last we have a commitment from both Hackney Council and the GLC to fund the Womens Centre we hope that it will soon be opening. Watch this space for details!

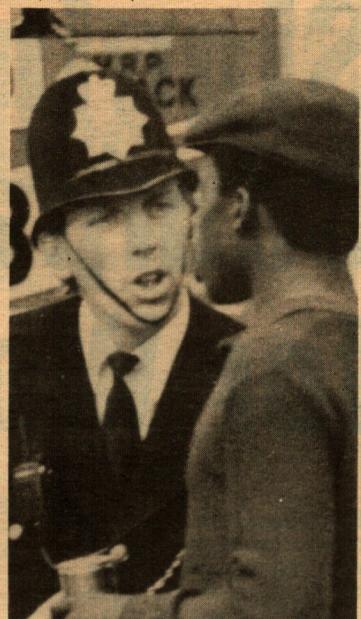
Judith Burton
Hackney Women's Centre Group
Box 41
136 Kingsland High Street
London E8.

Police PR job

Local police are mounting a big public relations exercise to counter Hackney Council's claim that their new Neighbourhood Watch schemes will not work in the borough. A special supplement to the force's newspaper called "The Neighbourhood" has been published.

In addition, the police have been putting on presentations at police stations for any local community leaders they can persuade to come along. They have not been very successful so far at this exercise: one senior officer recently mentioned that they had only had a total of 38 people at the 11 presentations they'd run so far!

The Council, meanwhile, is sticking to its policy decision not to accept a consultative committee on the Lambeth model. They still believe that a committee run by the police themselves does not offer true liaison. Their alternative plan is to set



up a liaison committee serviced by the Council with community representatives able to set the agenda.

What is even more frightening is that with one breath the police are talking about community policing and being good neighbours. With the next, they are backing to the hilt the drastic powers proposed by the Home Office in the revamped Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, just reintroduced into parliament. The proposals in the bill - the most serious threat to our civil liberties for decades - are outlined below.

Old Bill's new Bill

The new Police Bill is just as much a threat to the rights of ordinary people as was the old Bill, which fell when the General Election was suddenly called in May. Although the Home Office has tried to pretend that it is radically different, and has taken account of the widespread opposition to the earlier version, it is clear that it is mainly the old Bill, in a new wrapper.

Some of the new powers that the police will have if the Bill is passed by Parliament include:

- Increased powers to stop you and search you on the street or in your car. This is despite the recent Home Office research that existing stop and search powers are not effective in fighting crime, and are used disproportionately against young people, especially blacks.
- New powers of arrest for any offence, however minor, if the police doubt the name and address you give or if they think that it is necessary to prevent you causing an obstruction of the highway or an "affront to public decency".
- Power to detain you for four days and to deny you a solicitor for up to 36 hours if you are suspected of a "serious offence".
- Power to obtain a magistrate's warrant to search your home for evidence of a "serious offence", even if you are not suspected of an offence, if the police believe that you may not let them in or will not give them the evidence they're looking for.
- Power to delay your right to have someone informed of your arrest for up to 36 hours if you're suspected of a "serious offence".
- Increased powers to take

your fingerprints and photographs without your consent.

- Powers to set up road blocks almost anywhere for as long as the police want.

The Home Office has been promoting the Police Bill as part of a package incorporating other matters which are supposed to be a control on police powers. However, these other matters are still in draft form, as White Papers, and no timescale has yet been given for when they are likely to be introduced as legislation.

All discussion about methods of policing and police accountability are going to be excluded from debates on the Bill. There are no plans for independent assessment of complaints against the police and no dates for when the tape recording of police interrogation and an independent prosecution system will both be set up.

In a community like Hackney, where police powers are already abused, the question of police powers, how they are used and controlled and to whom the police are answerable cannot be separated.

The National Council for Civil Liberties and a new umbrella organisation, the National Campaign against the Police Bill, based in Hackney, will be coordinating opposition against the Bill. Already a conference has been planned for 19 November and a national demonstration on 21 January.

For full details contact

National Council for Civil Liberties, 21 Tabard St, SE1

National Campaign against the Police Bill, c/o 50 Rectory Road, London N16.

OPEN DEBATE ON JEWISH SCHOOLS

The decision by Hackney Council not to support local Orthodox Jewish schools when they apply for public money has caused a split among local Labour Party activists. Ten Labour councillors, from both the right and left of the party, voted with all the Tory and Liberal opposition members when the Council debated the issue at its October meeting. They were defeated by just three votes. A number of councillors were notably absent and, HPP was told afterwards, the vote would almost certainly have gone the other way if the Labour group had allowed its members a free vote on the issue.

The case for Council support of an application to the Department of Education and Science was put to the meeting by a deputation led by local rabbi Dayan Isaac Berger. There are more than thirty orthodox schools in the borough with over 3000 pupils, he said. They were educated in accordance with three principles. These were strict morality in the face of current trends and the permissive society, the transmission in full of their centuries-old culture, and the bringing-up of loyal well-balanced citizens. All the schools were financed by fees, and because of the large families that most had, cases of financial hardship were common.

Voluntary status

Joe Lobenstein was quickly to his feet to propose a Tory amendment to the motion which supported voluntary aided status for these schools. This was supported by the Liberals and, for different reasons, by a number of Labour councillors who spoke. These included Tony Millwood, who represents Northfields with a large Orthodox community. He pointed out that ILEA would have more control over schools if there were voluntary aided status and that the needs of children in Stamford Hill were not being met. Other left-wing councillors, such as Denise Robson and Brynley Heaven also spoke in favour of the Tory amendment. Abraham Pinter, principal of one of the schools being discussed was allowed to speak but not to vote on the matter. He said that he was not asking for any special privilege, but for equality. "This is a major issue for the Orthodox Jewish community," he said. "Do you accept us or reject us? Some people oppose us on the grounds of educational principles but these are not applied consistently. Is it a principle or

a cover-up for prejudice?"

Other Labour councillors spoke for the standard ILEA view. Hilda Kean said that she was opposed to voluntary aided status for any school for any religious group. ILEA would not have control over the running of the schools, she said. Hackney Council's representative on ILEA, Ruth Gee, also the ILEA deputy leader, explained that ILEA did not want to discriminate against any racial or religious group in Hackney. ILEA was held in acclaim by the ethnic minorities of London for its support for them, she said. ILEA could not support voluntary aided status if there were enough spaces for children in maintained schools already in the area.

Majority

A number of Orthodox Jewish people have become involved in the Labour Party at ward level in the last few years. However, the issue has gone

beyond their community. Northfields ward branch passed a motion instructing their councillors to vote for voluntary aided status by a large majority at a meeting earlier this year, with very few Orthodox community members present. And in New River ward there are already rumblings because all three of their ward councillors voted against voluntary aided status.

The issue will not go away now. The breadth of opinion represented by the ten-rebel Labour councillors (who were Richard Bruce, Sam Cohen, Max Feldman, Brynley Heaven, Patrick Kodikara, Bob Masters, Tony Millwood, Denise Robson, Steve Scott and Shuja Shaikh) shows that the Orthodox community's plea has won support from some of those who believe that ethnic and religious communities should be allowed public money for organising their own educational and cultural needs. It is an area that needs to be debated more fully.

Hackney Morning Star Bazaar



Saturday 26th November
Hackney Town Hall
12 noon — 4pm
Admission 10p

Exhibitions
Karl Marx Centenary
Art into action against unemployment

STOPPING THE CITY

The 'Stop the City' demonstration on 29 September did not cause as much of a stir as was planned, but allegations that there was a marked lack of organisation on the demo gets short shrift from the activists themselves.

At a meeting for all those arrested in the newly set up Squat for Peace, 99 Roseberry Avenue, the idea that perhaps the demonstration had been a failure was among the matters discussed. In response to a report made by Peace News stating that necessary organisational tactics, like giving legal backing to people and making sure that all action was non-violent were left undone, the Anarchists made it clear that a great deal of preparation had been done beforehand and that it was mainly external factors that lessened the demo's impact.

For instance, certain places in the City, such as the Stock Exchange, had



been chosen as meeting points but when people did turn up - as they did in their thousands - they were quickly fragmented by the police and directed away from any trouble spots. They know as well as we do that small groups are always easier to pick off than a mass surge. The demonstrators also made the claim that they had

extensive legal counselling before the Stop the City demo and those being brought to charge have their own solicitor, Nigel Leskin:

Nigel Leskin's address is 103 Borough High Street, London Bridge, London SE1 Tele: 403 3166.

Another point that the demonstrators made was that although the 29th was a day of very quick tempers and violent opinions, violent was exactly what the action was not. Except for one broken window and one kicked policeman, all the arrests (203 of them) were made for obstruction. As for the question of numbers, it seems that the Anarchists were let down by various organisations this year, notably CND, whose leadership advised its members to stay well away.

The activists believe that their main objective, to stop the City for a day, has still not been achieved, but nevertheless they are happy that the connection between the City and war has been shown. As a follow up to this, there may be another event on 29 March.

The cases of some of those arrested will be heard at the Guildhall Court of 4 and 11 November when there will be a symbolic demonstration held outside.



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MPs' Surgeries

Brian Sedgemore, MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, is available to meet people at St John's Tenants' hall, New North Road, on the first Saturday of each month, from 11 a.m. to 12.30; at the Trades Hall, 96 Dalston Lane on the second and third Friday of each month from 7-8.30 p.m. and at Eastway Library, Trowbridge Estate Hackney Wick on the fourth Friday of each month from 7-8.30 p.m.

In the Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency, Ernie Roberts, MP, holds surgeries at 96a Stoke Newington High Street on Sundays from 11 a.m.

Signing-on Campaign for Women

68,000 leaflets encouraging unregistered women to sign on as unemployed will be delivered to every household in Hackney shortly. The information is being distributed by the Hackney Women's Signing-on Campaign, a group of women recently given a grant by the GLC to further their aim of informing unemployed women about the advantages of signing on.

The campaign ran a pilot scheme on the Pembury and Hackney Downs estates earlier this year. To date the take up rate for women who signed on as a direct result of the campaign is equivalent to £21,000 a year. Other women have telephoned the unemployment centre to say they had seen leaflets and signed on, so the figure could be much higher.

The women's signing on campaign emphasises that it is worth signing on as unemployed even if you are not entitled to unemployment benefit pay-

ments. Unemployed women who sign on are no longer "invisible" and receive credit for National Insurance contributions.

"Most women, especially if they're married to men who are working, don't realise that they may well be entitled to up to £25 a week in unemployment benefit," said Mabinty Nicholson, a campaign worker. "It can also be complicated to work out when to claim and whether to expect any benefit, which is why we're here to give advice."

The Women's Signing-on Campaign is based at Hackney Centre for the Unemployed, and there are always women available to give advice about entitlement, help with filling in forms and, if necessary, to go to the Unemployment Benefit Office with women wishing to sign on as available for work. They can be contacted at the Centre, which is above Hackney Baths on Lower Clapton Road, or ring 985 2366.



Librarians object to being left on the shelf

Friction is afoot in all Hackney libraries where industrial action is now taking place. The argument is about pay scales which have not been updated for some time. The staff at Hackney libraries, with the backing of NALGO, have put in a claim for their salaries to be reviewed by the Council and for the gradings of their jobs to be examined as well.

It appears that the real grievance among librarians is that they are being ignored by the Council, which has become (understandably) pre-occupied with matters like housing and health issues. Junior staff especially have been expected to take on more than their job descriptions make them responsible for. They are angry also that no provision for a clear career structure has been made for them by the Council. In

recent year it has become impossible for junior staff to progress beyond a certain grade unless they are university graduates, regardless of their capabilities or experience.

As one library worker put it 'our job descriptions are a joke'.

The industrial action takes the form mainly of refusing to open the libraries if staffing levels fall below a minimum number set by NALGO: in the last two weeks hardly any branches have been open before 11.00 am. Staff are also refusing to reserve books (so that the Council miss out on the 15p charge) and they have decided not to collect fines . . . So now is the best time to return those tomes that have been lingering under the bed a little too long!

Race check plan for Dole offices

STOP ETHNIC MONITORING

In January next year the government will introduce a check of claimant's "ethnic origins" in dole offices. 'Ethnic monitoring' was one of the recommendations of the Rayner report, which was commissioned to look into ways of making cuts in the benefit service.

Staff will be expected to put all claimants into one of the following categories:

- 1) West Indian/African
- 2) Asian
- 3) Europeans, Chinese, Arabs and all those not in groups 1 and 2
- 4) Refusals (ie those refusing to be categorised like this)

Why ethnic monitoring?

The official reason for the scheme is that: "The government is committed to the fight against discrimination and the promotion of equal opportunity for all. As part of this commitment it needs to know how many unemployed people belong to each ethnic group." They also say that taking part is voluntary.

In February 1982, the Department of Employment carried out pilot tests of the scheme in 14 benefit offices to test two ways of collecting the statistics:

- 1) Claimants were given a card which asked them to put themselves into one of 7 racial categories

Good news for the estate tenants hate

Arden Estate tenants have finally forced Hackney Council to begin work on over 2,000 outstanding repairs on the estate.

The borough housing department promised the tenants association of "the worst estate in Shoreditch" that plumbing and glazing work would begin on Monday 31 October. Tenant association secretary Peggy Edwards said: "I'll believe it when I see it. You get used to not believing council promises."

Last year 4 pensioners died on the estate due to winter cold. More will die this year on the estate unless something is done quickly about rotting window frames, badly fitting doors and inadequately insulated flats. In March this year tenants reps met with the then chair of the Housing Committee Charles Clarke and Housing Director Tony Shoults who promised that something would be done about the disgusting conditions on the Arden estate.

Only through constant tenant pressure — including the occupation of a housing committee meeting in

- 2) Clerks had to guess or "visually assess" claimants' ethnic origins

With the card method, the rate of refusal to cooperate was 33.7%. The rate for visual assessment, where people didn't know they were being assessed was 1.2%. Not surprisingly, the Government chose the second method. But their own survey showed that any figures produced by this method would be crude and inaccurate. They could in no way help the government to fulfill its 'commitment'.

Guesswork

Benefit office clerks will be told to visually assess postal claimants who would never even be seen by them!

Will it affect benefit payments? The government says not, but the very report which says that the object of the test is to prevent discrimination also specifically implies that black people are more likely to commit fraud than white people. The Rayner report recommends an increase in the number of fraud officers. If the statistics are collected in benefit offices, a claimant's colour will be held on computer along with his/her name and insurance number as long as s/he is claiming benefit.

So what is to stop Regional Benefit Investigation Teams (RABITS), the new squads briefed to frighten people

off the register, from using computer print-outs to harass black claimants?

Of all the cuts and new procedures in the civil service implemented by this government, this is perhaps the most sinister so far, both for claimants and for people who work in benefit offices. Coming at a time when the government has recently passed its racist Nationality Act, and when black people are told to produce a passport before they can receive medical treatment, there can be little doubt about the real intention of this scheme.

Time is short. Unless we can organise effective opposition to it, the scheme will be introduced in just two months. The main trade union of benefit office staff, the CPSA, is opposed to the proposals, but to stop them, opposition must be widespread. Everyone, whether working or signing on, must unite to make sure this exercise in racism never sees the light of day.

Meeting

OPPOSE ETHNIC MONITORING IN DOLE OFFICES

Come to help organise against the racist checks.

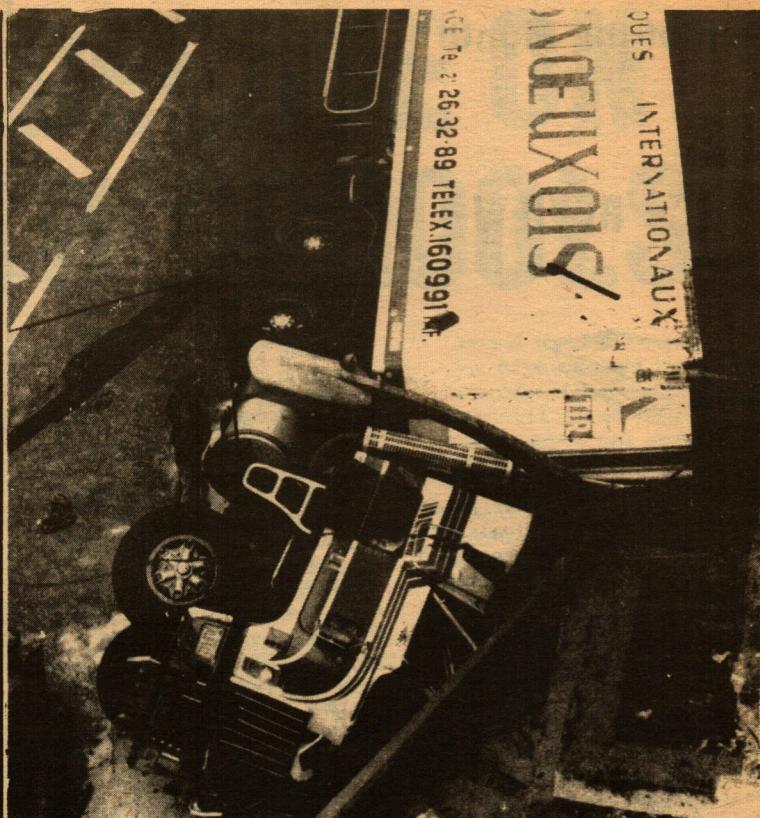
WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 7.30pm
Hackney Town Hall.

WHICH WAY ARE GLC GOING?

The government's threat to build the M11 Link Road is part of a long-term scheme to step up the building of trunk roads all over London.

Ken Livingstone has lent his support to the anti-motorway campaign. In a speech on 8 October at Jackson's Lane Community Centre in Highgate, he warned of road lobby agents and vested interests in the Department of Transport who wanted to build more motorways at the expense of public transport and the railways.

At the same meeting, Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North, said that local pressure could blow DOT



When this juggernaut crashed on St Paul's Road in June, the GLC began to take calls for a lorry ban seriously—see below. However, GLC plans for the M11 in Hackney Wick put less attention to local needs—see bottom story.

Red light for lorries

To coincide with the opening of the M25 between the A1 and the Dartford tunnel in December, the GLC is introducing an experimental night-time ban on heavy lorries between Graham Road and Archway Road.

The ban will be imposed between 10pm and 6am, and will prevent vehicles exceeding 7.5 tonnes from entering the north-westbound slip road off the A102 and stop them from turning left from Eastway into Homerton Road. Lorries will also be barred from the north-westbound carriageway of Archway Road.

However, unless police strictly enforce the restrictions, it is unlikely that HGVs will respect the ban.

M11 inquiry

The inquiry into the M11 Link Road opened in February of this year and lasted until September. The inspector is to present his recommendations by the middle of next year. The Department of Transport's scheme is for a dual three lane link road stretching four miles from the end of the M11 at South Woodford to Hackney Wick, where it

plans to "smother" and prevent them from bulldozing their way through communities.

would join the motorway section of the Blackwall tunnel approach road. Many organisations, including Hackney council, lodged objections at the inquiry because of the damage the road would do to Hackney in terms of increased traffic, danger to pedestrians, noise and pollution for residents and loss of open space.

The GLC opposed DOT plans and put forward its own scaled down designs for a new road. Instead of a dual three lane link road, the GLC recommended a dual two lane road. It also argued for more of the motorway to be put into a covered cutting to lessen noise and fumes. The GLC's policy is against the government's control of trunk roads inside the M25 orbital motorway. By taking control of these roads the GLC would then be able to build the M11 extension to its own specifications.

John Adams, who gave evidence on behalf of Hackney council at the inquiry, argued that the GLC's dual two lane proposal would be able to carry as much traffic as the Department of Transport had forecast for its three lane plan. Ken Livingstone notwithstanding, the estimated volume of traffic under the GLC plan would still do much damage to Hackney.

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Pub of the Month



REVIEW



In the wake of the East London and Munich beer festivals, the HPP pub of the month research team is currently following medical advice and enduring a period of (temporary) abstinence. Too exhausted to research a pub of the month, our armchair journalists instead bring you not one but 1001 pubs - in the form of the recently published East London and City Beer Guide which we review...

The first thing we pub-crawling folks noticed about the guide was that it was a beer guide that lists all the local pubs, and not just the real ale pubs listed by all the other guides we've seen published by CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale). However the descriptions of the pubs vary - detailed notes about pubs serving hand-pumped real ales, and little more than name, address and brewery for keg pubs. Worth finding, or avoiding - the choice is yours.

The guide is well produced, and at only £1 for 168 pages it represents exceptional value, the cost presumably being subsidised by a number of brewery adverts. Always a difficult decision in such guides, but this is not the first time ads have appeared in local beer guides, and there's no apparent sign of them detracting from the guide as a whole.

The book covers the E1 - 4 and E1 - E18

HPP GOOD FOOD REVIEW

THE AYSHA INDIAN TANDOORI RESTAURANT, 14 Manor Rd N16.

Mr Mia opened the Aysha restaurant in April 1983. The decor is along traditional Indian restaurant lines, while soft music and extremely comfortable red velvetine seats lull the diner into a mood of well-being.

Mr Mia is an excellent host and answers us that his two chefs are the best in the business. Their menu is varied -- take away is also available 7 days a week (noon-3pm and 6pm-midnight on weekdays, noon to midnight on Saturdays and Sundays).

areas, the pubs being listed alphabetically by postal district and each post code has its own map showing the location of all the pubs. Most of Hackney is therefore covered, with the exception of N16 and parts of N1 and N4.

Looking at the Hackney postal areas we discovered a number of interesting sounding places that had previously escaped our attention and found it fascinating to read the generally sensible descriptions and comments about the pubs we knew. However we did wonder about the Prince of Wales in E5 being called a 'one-bar pub' - was the HPP research team seeing double when we visited it for our summer Lea Bridge Crawl article? Is Forest Road, home of the Lady Diana, in E8 an up-and-coming suburb?

Maps are always welcome and always a problem to get right after a few pints - both for the drawer and the reader! Anyone trying to find the Hustler's in Queensbridge Road, E8 could miss out on last orders if they go by the map location where it is shown to be in Kingsland Road. Also there seems to be a bit of confusion over which Railway Tavern is on the corner of Amhurst Road; we suspect the one in Mare Street is nearer than the one in Kingsland High Street!

But after a few beers that is really a bit of an academic problem and if you can't find the sort of pub/beer you want with the help of this guide you might as well give up, stay at home and put the kettle on for a nice cup of tea...

The more adventurous will find that copies are on sale in local pubs, the Beer Shop in Pitfield Street, N1, or direct from Peter Roberts 34 Meadow Way, Upminster, Essex (cost £1, cheques/p.o.s to "East London and City CAMRA").

The choice of 16 starters include Chicken Tikka and melon. I strongly recommend the Meat Samosa, which is a pastry triangle filled with spicy mince meat and served with lettuce.

Main courses offer a selection of Chicken, Meat, Fish and Vegetable curry dishes. Chicken Phall is extremely hot and should not be attempted by the novice. Madras curry is hot enough for most people. The menu also includes Tandoori, Kurma, Byriani and Persian dishes. From the vegetable side dishes I chose Onion Bhajee.

Sundries include Bombay Duck, popadoms and my favourite-stuffed paratha.

There is a licenced bar until 11pm and a range of English dishes available. A three course meal with a drink or two for two people costs between £8 and £10. Cheques are accepted with bankers' card as are most major credit cards.



CROSSROADS CARE ATTENDANT SCHEME

Hackney has recently joined the Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme. Crossroads is a national organisation which supports relatives or friends caring for a disabled person at home.

Many elderly disabled people are able to live at home only because of constant support from relatives or friends. In situations where this support system temporarily breaks down the disabled person concerned would normally have to go into hospital or residential care. If however a properly trained reliable care attendant can step into the breach and help the handicapped person admission to an institution can be avoided. The attendant works alongside and supplements any help provided by the statutory services.

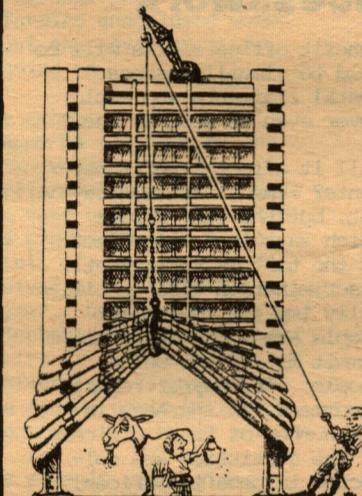
The Hackney scheme is for the relatives or friends (of any age) for a disabled person over 65. More information about the scheme can be obtained from the Community Health Council, 210 Kingsland Rd, London E2 8EB. Tel: 729 0750.

CITY FARMING

Have you ever thought about setting up a neighbourhood city farm or community garden but didn't know how to go about it? Inter-Action has now solved your problem by bringing out two books on the subject.

The first of these, 'City Farming and Community Gardening I' has just been published. Priced £3.95+ 55p p&p, it is available from Inter-Action Inprint, 15 Wilkin Street, London NW5.

Christopher Wardle, the author, is an agricultural consultant who has worked for Friends of the Earth, Oxfam and international development agencies. The book has resource



lists and sections on bringing people together, forming a charity, campaigning, finding a site, budgeting, fund raising, accounting and staffing. We hope to publish a review in the next issue of HPP.

THE RIO ONE DAY IN HACKNEY

Are there any would-be or experienced photographers who will be around the borough on Tuesday 13 December? If so, they are invited to join the Rio cinema's "One day in Hackney" project.

This has been set up to produce a set of slides of life in Hackney on that particular date. By encouraging local photographers to take part, it is hoped to present a picture of Hackney as the people of Hackney see it. The assembled slides, synchronised with an audio tape, will be shown initially at the Rio and will be subsequently available for local groups to borrow.

ONE DAY IN HACKNEY

The Rio is trying to raise the money to buy the film so that it can be supplied to the people involved. For those who have not got or used a camera before, the organisers are hoping to put together lists of people who can offer access to suitable cameras and training in the

WOODCRAFT FOLK - scouting for progress

Have you ever been driven mad by your kids wanting to join the scouts or guides and longed for something more progressive?

You may not know it but in Hackney there exists a branch of the Woodcraft Folk. The Folk were founded in the 1920s as an alternative to the scouts. They are a branch of the co-operative movement and have a strong tradition, dating from their formation of anti-racism and working for peace.

Children and adult members wear green shirts, and all the children work for badges, 'so many nights under canvas, putting up a tent, etc' equals one badge. There is



a definite emphasis on outdoor activities and children are encouraged to appreciate and conserve the countryside as soon as they join at the age of six. From six to nine children are Elfs and from Ten to thirteen they are Pioneers.

There is already a small group of Elfs in Stoke Newington and after half-term a new Elfin group will be opening at the Wally Foster Community Centre on the Kingsmeade Estate.

Any adult who is interested and would like to know more would also be welcome. Phone Sabrina 802 6437 or Kevin 533 0627

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CHATS PALACE
HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
42 BROOKSEY'S WALK E.9. 986 6714

November

Wed 2	"Do It Yourself" Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro, plus guest performers. All welcome. Free.
Thurs 3	Juke Box Night in the bar. Come and hear your favourite 60s records or make requests. Free
Fri 4	*HLP Halloween Party with Chicken Shack + disco. £2.50/£1.50 unwaged.
Sat 5	Chats Palace Music Hall with Jim McManus and many old favourites. £2/£1 unwaged
Sun 6	Lunchtime Jazz with Ruthie Smith and friends. Free. *Gaslight Gaieties & the GLC present Karl Marx Music Hall. £2/£1 unwaged
Wed 9	"Do It Yourself" Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro, One Lung Bill and guest performers. Free.
Thu 10	Don't miss Covent Garden Community Theatre in their latest show "Fair Cop". In the bar. Free.
Fri 11	*Pyramid Arts Development Benefit with Group Casanova, Front Line and Poppin Wizards plus Sirena Sound System. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 12	Christmas Show Talent Night. All performers welcome. £1/50p unwaged.
Sun 13	Lunchtime Jazz with The Rae James Quintet. Free.
Wed 16	"Do It Yourself" Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro, One Lung Bill and many more. Free.
Thu 17	Chats Palace Senior Citizens Club presents Kate O'Clarey for an afternoon's entertainment. Free. Juke Box Night in the bar. Golden Oldies from the 60s. Free.
Fri 18	Chats Palace proudly presents the kings of close harmony, Harvey and the Wallbangers with special guest Nick Barracough. £1.50/75p unwaged
Sat 19	Christmas Show Party Nite with the Bogey-Wooley Disco and late-night horror movie "Masque of the Red Death". £1.50/75p unwaged.
Sun 20	Lunchtime Jazz with Jazz Sviners. Free.
Wed 23	"Do It Yourself" Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro, One Lung Bill and guest performers. Free.
Thu 24	Juke Box Night in the bar. Request your fave golden oldies. Free.
Fri 25	*Benefit for Hackney Youth CND with Groovalax and Klymax Sound System. £1.50/75p unwaged.
Sat 26	Christmas Show Party Nite with Rent Party and The Neapolitans. Don't miss this double bill. £1.50/75p unwaged.
Sun 27	Lunchtime Jazz with Keith Nichols. Free.
Wed 30	"Ghoul It Yourself" Pub Night in the bar with Tony "Fangs" Locantro and many more guest ghouls. All fiends welcome. Free. Wednesday to Saturday nights and Sunday lunchtimes — entertainments in the bar until...
Wed 14	Opening Night of Chats Palace Christmas Show Things That Grow Bumps In The Night



TAKE US TO YOUR REHEARSAL

Chat's Palace is looking for people with a taste for the bizarre to take part in this year's Christmas cabaret, THINGS THAT GROW BUMPS IN THE NIGHT. Workshops are starting NOW for performers and people interested in behind the scenes activity (lighting, costume, stage management etc). If you are interested ring Lesley at 986 6714 or drop by Chat's Palace

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Hank Wangford

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Neapolitans

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Blue Collar

2.00

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THURSDAY 10

BURNING

AN 2.00

ILLUSION

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SUNDAY 13

WELLES DOUBLE

CITIZEN

KANE 2.15

THE 4.25

MAGNIFICENT

PG AMBERS

THURSDAY 17

ROSIE THE

RIVETTER 2.00

Connie Field/USA/1980/Colour/
85 min/16mm

tickets £ price

SUNDAY 20

OSHIMA DOUBLE

BILL

BOY 18 2.15

DEATH 18

BY HANGING 4.00

Japan 1968 117 min

THURSDAY 24

RAGING BULL

Denzel Washington, Robert De Niro, Jake LaMotta, Martin Scorsese. 1980. 154 min/16mm

tickets £ price

FRIDAY 25

LATE NIGHT 11.00

FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE

WOLFMAN

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD

SUNDAY 27

HERZOG DOUBLE

STROZER

15

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WRATH OF GOD 1.10

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House Party
Director: Reginald Hudlin
USA 1983 21 minutes

The Principal Enemy
Director: Jorge Sanjinés
Bolivia 1973/4 90 minutes

First Look
Director: Kaviraj Datta
USA 1983 60 minutes

Cutter's Way
Director: Jeff Bridges, John Heard, Lee Ecker
USA 1981 100 minutes

Circle of Deceit
Director: John Schlesinger
UK 1985 120 minutes

Inca Peru
Speaker: From the New Jewel Movement

Carila and The Rio Present a Concert for Grenada

7.30

Oppel Elder Sister
Director: K S Sethumadhavan
India 1981 125 minutes

Glimpses of Indian Cinema
Director: Film Division of India
India 10 minutes

El Chacal de Nabuñero
Director: Jorge Díaz
Mexico 1983 87 minutes

A Common History
Director: Covind Nihalani
India 144 minutes

Il Fidelspeaks
Director: Santiago Alvarez
Cuba 1981 35 minutes

Azakob
Director: Cenobio Vázquez
Cuba 1981 12 minutes

Il Fidelspeaks
Director: Cenobio Vázquez
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Director: Cenobio Váz

BATTLE

Continued from front page.
contacted at 380 Old Street
London EC1.

Ideas and helpers are needed to make a big, effective impact over the next few months as the Government introduces its rate support and rate capping bills. Firstly the plan is to hit 'overspending' councils like Hackney by cutting the Government's contribution, the rate support grant. But not just by £1m for each £1m overspent, but by £2! Later, probably in January, a bill will be introduced



HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Perhaps this issue of HPP is the first one you've ever seen. Perhaps you've bought the odd copy in the past, but never regularly. Perhaps you are a devoted monthly reader (there are some!).

Whatever you are, did you know that you can help write or produce the next issue? All you have to do is come to our open editorial meeting, which will be held in Enterprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 at 8pm on Thursday 17 November.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders, and no one is paid by the paper.

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to limit the amount by which councils can put up their rates. Up to now, councils have been able to put up their rates to raise money for needed services, but all this could change with the Government being able to determine how much each council can charge. So much for local democracy! What with the doubts on the future of partnership funding, upon which many community projects rely, the picture looks bleak.

But the fight is not over by any means, as the Save Hackney campaign means to show. The next main event will be on Friday, 11 November when Sir George

Young from the Department of the Environment comes to Hackney for a partnership meeting to discuss the future of Partnership-funded projects which are coming up for renewal. Initially partnership funding was intended to last for three years only; the problem is now what happens next - are projects to be allowed to fold or can money be made available to enable worthwhile projects to continue? If this year's projects can be saved then there is a precedent for future years when even more projects come to the end of their funding.

Various groups intend to put on a "Hackney breakfast" reception, and a good turnout of people just before the meeting will be needed on the day. Contact Sue with your ideas or details of how you can help. Information is needed on any important people visiting Hackney. The recent visit of Prince Charles has gone - unnoticed! Whatever our views on royalty and VIPs the chance to welcome and lobby them ought not to be missed.

Sue Bradley explained to HPP that the campaign holds meetings on Tuesday lunchtimes, 12.30 at Hackney Co-operative Developments, 16 Dalston

HACKNEY HEALTH Emergency



After the rumpus of the September meeting of the District Health Authority, the members returned to safer territory for their October meeting: their own offices, near Old Street. Because the meeting room there is so small, there wasn't the same supercharged atmosphere - in fact, only a handful of members of the public were allowed in.

As was predicted before the meeting, 'Option 3' of the four presented was proposed as a compromise by the Hackney Council representatives and the other members who had opposed closure of St Leonards. After some debate, the motion that this option should be 'worked up' into detailed plans by the management team was agreed - unanimously. Dire words were spoken about what the Regional Authority might say or do if the District did not have its plan ready by January.

So St Leonards has won another small reprieve. But no one should be mistaken:

this plan proposes a 'community facility' at the hospital with, provisionally, 50 beds. That is not a gain of 50 beds over the plan to close the hospital completely. The original loss of 87 beds remains: the 50 beds will simply be taken from other hospitals.

Hackney Health Emergency, the umbrella campaign co-ordinating the fight for a better health service for the borough, has produced a detailed rebuttal of the option for a community hospital at St Leonards. They point out that every plan that comes from the District is tied down because they insist in planning on a reducing budget. This is despite the fact that the District really needs an extra £13.25 million just to stand still because of the increasing numbers of old people in Hackney's population.

More jobs would also be lost if this proposal comes through, since the staff at the community hospital at St Leonards would also come

from other hospitals - and the Community Health Service would be reduced and the Community Homes plan dropped. HHE describes the plan, as at present envisaged, to be at best a token, at worst a disaster.

Hackney Health Emergency is in no mood to compromise. A packed Annual General Meeting and special public meeting in Hackney Town Hall demanded of DHA members that they fight for the complete retention of St Leonards. Paul O'Brien, the secretary, wrote in an open letter: "Ultimately the possibility of defending the health services depends on the activity of health workers with the full support of the community. There is no other way. That is what the campaign is working towards, and to this end everyone can help... What Hackney must be known for is not that it is the most deprived borough in the country but that - it is putting up the best resistance."

Contact Hackney Health Emergency, 95 Prince George Road, N.16.

Lane, E8. Individuals and groups are needed now to organise the coming months' action. The Save Hackney campaign's phone number is 729 5536.

Queensland strikers

Continued from front page
a table and talk, and to recognise our union."

According to one worker inside the factory, the company is willing to take back the strikers as individuals, but not as organised union members. HPP contacted Queensland director Nick Ahmed who refused to give an interview and said: "I have no comment."

NUTGW organiser Danny Silver explained that the strike was crucial to the struggle to improve pay and conditions in Hackney's sweatshop industry. It was also important for the union to win the confidence of Turkish workers who were being exploited in the rag trade.



Two of the participants at CND's October 22 demonstration against Cruise and Trident missiles. Cruise missiles will have arrived in Britain by the time you read this paper.

Photo: Paul Mattsson

THE NATIONAL
HEALTH SERVICE
IS SAFE IN OUR
HANDS.



THE UNEMPLOYED
ARE SAFE IN OUR
HANDS.



NATIONAL SECURITY
IS SAFE IN OUR
HANDS. HOWEVER...



OUR HANDS
ARE TIED.

